



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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### **Kolste Introduces Legislation to Reduce Out-of-Pocket Drug Costs**

MADISON – Rep. Debra Kolste and a bi-partisan group of legislators held a press conference on Tuesday to introduce a bill that would allow the state to regulate the operations of pharmacy benefit managers, also known as PBMs, an important but relatively unknown player in the prescription drug marketplace.

PBMs manage prescription drug benefits for 95% of Americans with prescription drug coverage. They create drug formularies, contract with pharmacies, and process and pay prescription drug claims. PBMs play a crucial role in the prescription drug supply chain, including influencing pricing and drug selection.

“The bill we are bringing forward today is a comprehensive, patient-centered bill,” said Rep. Kolste. It will lower out-of-pocket drug costs for patients, ensure that decisions about prescription drug choices will remain between a prescriber and a patient, and remove penalties on consumers for going to the pharmacy of their choice,” said Rep. Kolste.

LRB 0448 would:

- Prohibit a PBM from banning a pharmacist from informing a patient that there is a lower cost option to paying for a prescription drug
- Require each PBM to indicate the amount of rebates they receive from pharmaceutical manufacturers and the percentage of that rebate amount that was retained by the PBM and not passed through to the health plan or their customers
- Prevent the removal of prescription drugs from a formulary during a plan year
- Prohibit PBMs from charging higher co-pays to consumers for utilizing an in-network pharmacy
- Allow the state Office of Commissioner of Insurance to request reports and conduct examinations to ensure that PBMs are acting in the best interests of the consumer

“This is an issue I have worked on for multiple years so I am excited to see that my colleagues within the legislature are recognizing the importance of this legislation,” Kolste added. “We have seen example after example across the state where patients are being charged more for their medications than they would be if they did not have insurance. The price gouging must stop.”

At least 33 states have passed legislation regulating PBMs.

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